

WHO MAY ASCEND?



*"Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?
And who may stand in His holy place?"*

—Psalm 24:3 NASB'95

VALLEY GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH OF ARMAGH, PA
MAY 12TH, AD 2024

THE LORD'S DAY

The Twelfth Day of May, *in the Year of our Lord 2024*

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!



Sunday School—9:30 AM.

We continue our exciting and illuminating studies in Church History—a too often neglected topic!

Morning Worship—9:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *“At the Cross”* (#153; Chorus ONLY).

Invocation.*

Hymn: *“Our Great Savior”* (#1).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 24.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *“At Calvary”* (#187).

Announcements.

Hymn: *“I Love to Tell the Story”* (#190).

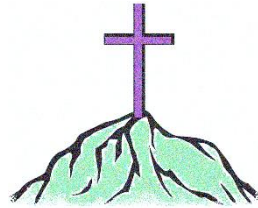
Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *“WHO MAY ASCEND?”* (THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION)

Closing Hymn:* *“Blessed Assurance”* (#197).

Benediction.*



**The Congregation will please arise, if able.*



Week of May 5 – May 11

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—12

Midweek—5; Offering—\$1,155.⁰¹

AFRICA UPDATE: May 8, 2024 (Pastor Keith Merriman)

Dear beloved brethren,

Pastor Salomon and the Medical Outreach Team from the Mfomakap GBC will be having a three day outreach to a village called Yameke between Yoaunde and Abong Mbang in Cameroon. Please pray that the Lord will give journey mercies to the team and that many will be saved. Pastor Salomon is excited because his son Peter (training to be a medical doctor now in his last year) will be going with the team for the first time. And his daughter Elizabeth (training to be medical doctor in third year) will also be involved.

Thanks for your prayers and gifts,
God bless,
Keith

2024 ALLEGHENY CONSERVATIVE GBC DISTRICT CONFERENCE



Once again, it's time for the annual District Conference of the Allegheny Conservative Grace Brethren Churches! Our theme this year is central to all of the Christian life: **"AND GOD SAID."**

This year's event will be held at the Somerset Grace Brethren Church (1605 Maplehurst Dr., Somerset, PA 15501). Morning registration begins at 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 18, with coffee and donuts available. After the morning session, lunch will be served at Noon. The event should last until about 3:00 PM, following the afternoon session and business meeting. Please pray for **Pastor Tom Johnson** (Somerset GBC), who is serving as our District Moderator this year. The event will feature a morning and afternoon Bible hour, as well as breakout sessions for both the men and the ladies.



UPDATE ON GUS (Part I; 5/08/24)—Mark Joubert

(Pastor Reese: Due to the original's length, I am abbreviating & sub-dividing the text.)

Hello, friends. Here is the latest update on Gus... The three ongoing objectives have been: **1)** weaning his sedation meds, **2)** increasing his feed to help him gain weight, **3)** caring for his kidneys with the right fluid balance and ongoing peritoneal dialysis...

With the **first**, he's made remarkable progress. He gets all but one of his meds enterally... he is close to being completely off the sedatives... It's hard to see him fight through the withdrawals...

...With the **second**, it has been mixed. He's still being fed through the nasogastric (NG) tube... Unfortunately, he's been throwing up regularly.

As for the **3rd issue** - the kidneys - the news is less encouraging. Despite some good days, the overall trend is not favorable. His urine output is still quite minimal. His renal function labs show key markers hovering at concerning high levels. He got another renal ultrasound this week... The results suggest it is worse, not better than it was a few weeks ago.

This leads to one of the more concerning, and certainly one of the more daunting developments we've had in the last month or so... Since Gus' heart transplant, when his new heart failed to start as expected, our team has been monitoring his heart function closely. While the overall trend has been promising, one area of the heart has concerned us for a while - the tricuspid valve between the right atrium and right ventricle. There have been persistent signs of tricuspid regurgitation (TR). TR occurs when the tricuspid valve between the right atrium and right ventricle doesn't close completely when the right ventricle contracts. This causes blood to flow backward into the atrium making the heart work harder... Unfortunately, the TR has not gone away... The tricuspid valve is damaged - probably from the original trauma the heart went through during the transplant. It wouldn't be so alarming & so urgent if it wasn't for the kidneys... when you have kidneys on the verge of renal failure, not having good perfusion due to a leaky valve can be devastating in its effect. Of particular concern is that we are now more than halfway through what our nephrologists believe to be a 12-week window in which the kidneys can recover. What does this mean for Gus? We're uncertain, but the possibilities are daunting... A few weeks ago, we felt like we were on a trajectory that could have us home in a matter of weeks. We know now we are on the verge of what could be many more difficult weeks...

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK...